



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

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## **Governor Rell Announces State Police Will Assist Hartford Police**

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced today that she has authorized the Connecticut State Police to assist the Hartford Police Department in fighting narcotics trafficking, violent crime and quality-of-life offenses in the capital city.

Mayor Eddie Perez and Hartford Police Chief Patrick J. Harnett have accepted Governor Rell's earlier offer of assistance from State Police, who will begin working with Hartford officers on July 1. Certain Hartford neighborhoods have seen 13 homicides this year and numerous other shootings or stabbings, many of them believed to be related to drug dealing.

"The violence in Hartford in the last few weeks has been nothing short of horrific," Governor Rell said. "The worst of it is that often children are killing other children. Enough is enough. Working with Mayor Perez, Hartford police, community groups and concerned residents, we are determined that the peaceful, law-abiding people of this city will no longer be terrorized by an outlaw minority."

Senior officers from the State Police and the Hartford Police Department will meet to plan strategies for using the combined officers effectively. In the past, uniformed state troopers have conducted routine patrols in Hartford. This time the State Police will employ plainclothes officers to address narcotics and gun crimes, while uniformed troopers will assist in enforcing motor vehicle laws.

"Whatever the state can do we will do," Governor Rell said. "Nothing is more important than the safety of our people – it is government's first obligation. Nor is it acceptable for a handful of thugs to dominate our streets."

"It is going to be a long, hot summer," the Governor said. "It will take everyone – not just the state and the city, but everyone, including community groups and parents – to stop the violence. The root causes of crime go well beyond effective law enforcement."

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The state stands ready to do its part, and my agency commissioners are working on additional ideas for not only ending the immediate violence but breaking the cycle of despair, poverty, and rage that fuel it.”

The size of the State Police deployment will not be disclosed, but it will be large enough to assist Hartford on a daily basis.